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ABSTRACT

Immediately popular when published over a century and a half ago, the novel "Jane Eyre" has continued to find appreciative audiences ever since. This student casebook offers an interdisciplinary approach to the study of Charlotte Bronte's landmark novel. While the casebook gives literary analysis, it also contextualizes the novel in terms of the historical social issues it confronts. Commentary is supported with primary documents from legal and medical treatises, magazine articles, letters, essays, and firsthand accounts. In the casebook, educators will find ideas for teaching these topics and for helping students see the connections between the novel and the social concerns it raises. The casebook is divided into the following sections: Introduction; Literary Analysis: "Jane Eyre"; Education for Victorian Girls; The Governess in Nineteenth-Century England; Madness and Victorian Women: Diagnosis and Treatment; Inheritance and Marriage Law and Custom; and "Jane Eyre": Issues in the Twenty-First Century. Each section offers ideas for written and oral exploration, including role playing, debates, and journal writing assignments, as well as suggestions for further reading. (NKA)

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